
CARMEL OBSERVER



(317) 571-2500

July 2008

Crime Watch Coordinators and Block Captains:

If your neighborhood will be participating in National Night Out on August 5th please fill out the participant form that was sent to you. We will need this no later than July 16th at 4pm.

We will have a limited supply of party favors for participating neighborhoods. You will need to pick them up at the Police Department the week of July 21st. They will be distributed on a first come, first served basis until supplies run out.

Please contact Ann Gallagher at 571-2500 or agallagher@carmel.in.gov to make arrangements for pick-up.

Tips on Avoiding Fraudulent Charitable Contribution Schemes

The following information is provided by the FBI

Since late May and early June 2008, there have been several natural disasters throughout the country—including tornadoes, wildfires, and floods that have devastated lives and property. In the wake of these events, which cause emotional distress and great financial loss to numerous victims, individuals across the nation often feel a desire to help, frequently through monetary donations.

Tragic incidents such as 9/11, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the recent earthquake in China have prompted individuals with criminal intent to solicit contributions purportedly for a charitable organization and/or a good cause. Therefore, before making a donation of any kind, consumers should adhere to certain guidelines, to include the following:

- Do not respond to unsolicited (spam) e-mail.
- Be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as officials soliciting via e-mail for donations.
- Do not click on links contained within an unsolicited e-mail.
- Be cautious of e-mail claiming to contain pictures in attached files, as the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from know senders.
- To ensure contributions are received and used for intended purposes, make contributions directly to known organizations rather than relying on others to make the donation on your behalf.
- Validate the legitimacy of the organization by directly accessing the recognized charity or aid organization's website rather than following an alleged link to the site.
- Attempt to verify the legitimacy of the non-profit status of the organization by using various Internet-based resources, which also may assist in confirming the actual existence of the organization.
- Do not provide personal or financial information to anyone who solicits contributions: providing such information may compromise your identity and make you vulnerable to identity theft.

To obtain more information on charitable contribution schemes and other types of online schemes, visit www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com. If you are a victim of an online scheme, please notify the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) by filing a complaint at www.ic3.gov.